

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME <i>Concrete Block House</i>		COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. BP-202 (S)
COMMON PROPERTY NAME		QUAD/COUNTY MAP Phoenix Quad	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 614 North 4th Avenue			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Phoenix		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 111-39-27	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Henry T. & Dorothy D. Forman		PHONE 253-5555	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 614 North 4th Avenue			
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85003
FORM PREPARED BY Gerald A. Doyle & Associates		DATE August 1982	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 4331 North 12th Street		PHONE 264-3082	
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85014
PHOTO BY Robert Graham		DATE August 1982	
VIEW Toward SW			
HISTORIC USE Single family residence			
PRESENT USE Single family residence		ACREAGE Less/Acre	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Constructed ca. 1906			



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The building at 614 North 4th Avenue is a duplicate of the one at 618 North 4th Avenue. It is noteworthy for its architectural design and construction materials. It has a typical bungalow plan configuration with a porch along its entire street facade. A hipped roof covers the main portion of the house and the porch. Over the porch, the roof is carried on a classical architrave, which is supported by four square columns with bases and capitals derived from the Tuscan Order. The street-side roof plane has a hipped dormer with louvered ventilators. The porch is enclosed with a solid railing and is reached by steps flanked with stepped cheek blocks. Originally a single family dwelling, this building has been modified for multi-family use. The windows and door openings are rectangular and have projecting concrete lintels; the windows have projecting concrete sills. Windows are the double-hung type, and those on the porch have diamond-shaped, beveled-glass lights. The building has Neoclassical-derived proportions and details. The pressed concrete masonry units made to simulate stone are particularly noteworthy. They are used, typically, in the wall construction and are laid in a running bond. Special units, which are stacked, are utilized in the porch columns. The columns also have precast capital and base elements. Constructed in 1906, this building demonstrates an early, successful building method utilizing factory-produced elements and is an especially noteworthy element in the streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

This ca. 1906 cottage, the twin of 618-620 North 4th Avenue, is architecturally significant for its use of precast concrete block simulating rusticated stone. Although the use of concrete block was not uncommon (the Phoenix Artificial Stone & Cement Company manufactured concrete blocks, and machines were available from Sears, Roebuck & Co.), this house is one of the few remaining examples of concrete block construction in Phoenix. The block design used was called "Standard Rock Face."

Additionally, the house was briefly (ca. 1913 - 1916) the residence of Mulford Windsor. Windsor was a prominent political figure. He edited several newspapers, including the Phoenix Enterprise (1903 - 1905) and was the first historian of Arizona (1909), a member of the Constitutional Convention of Arizona (1910), first executive secretary to Gov. George W.P. Hunt (1912), first chairperson of the State Land Commission (1912 - 1915), a member of the State Senate (1915 - 1928), and president of the State Senate (1923 - 1928). He also served for many years as the Director of the State Department of Library and Archives.

As one of the earliest and few remaining examples of concrete block construction, the house may be eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boyle, Bernard Michael. Materials in the Architecture of Arizona, 1870-1920. Tempe: Arizona State University, College of Architecture, 1976.
- Charles Hall Page & Associates, Inc. Phoenix Historic Building Survey, prepared for the City of Phoenix Planning Department, 1979.
- Lutrell, Estelle. Newspapers and Periodicals of Arizona, 1859-1911. Tucson: University of Arizona, 1950.
- Maricopa County Assessor's Records.
- Maricopa County Recorder's Records.
- Norman, R.O. Norman's Who's Who for Arizona, 1951-1952. Portland, Oregon: R.O. Norman, 1952.

(See continuation sheet)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BLOCK E, LOT 8, BENNETT PLACE.

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY

614 North 4th Avenue
BP-202

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

Phoenix City Directories

Sanborn Insurance Maps

Schroeder, James J. Sears, Roebuck, & Co., 1908. Catalogue No. 117.

Chicago: Follett Publishing Company, 1969.

Woodward, Jim. Personal Communication, 1982.